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(54) FUEL CELL, SEPARATOR FOR FUEL CELL. AND MANUFACTURE THEREFOR

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To easily manufacture a separator, excellent in electrical resistance, gas permeability, liquid swelling properties, and mechanical strength, and satisfactory in moldability, by molding expanded graphite powder having a specific average grain size and mixed with a resin.

SOLUTION: Expanded graphite powder having an average grain size of 50 µm or more is previously manufactured and mixed with a resin, and the mixture is molded into a separator. If the average size of the expanded graphite powder is less than 50 µm, the

separator is larger in electrical resistivity and inferior in mechanical characteristics, and therefore 80 to 500 µm is preferable. As the expanded graphite powder, expanded graphite having worm-like shapes and compression characteristics, can be obtained, for example, by immersing graphite in a solution with an acid constituent, thereby producing a graphite interlayer compound, rinsing the graphite, and rapidly heating it so as to cause graphite crystals to extend in the C axis direction. This graphite is worked into a sheet-like shape and then pulverized. As the resin, a non-solvent liquid epoxy resin, a solid epoxy resin, a melamine resin, an acryl resin, a phenol resin, a polyamide resin, and the like are used.

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